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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Costa Rica/Nicaragua

SUBJECT ~~Communist~~ Participation in Costa Rican Civil Strife
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1. Despite military training at CTCR headquarters under Adolfo Brana, a veteran of the Spanish Civil War, Partido Vanguardia Popular (PVP) militants have shown little eagerness to participate in actual fighting, and are now being used as guards over three power plants of the Compania de Fuerza y Luz. A force of 120 armed men, under Vanguardia deputy Jaime Cerdas, has been divided equally among the Brazil, Belen, and Las Ventanas plants. Under orders from Cerdas, a large quantity of dynamite was removed from the Las Ventanas plant on 21 March. According to source, Cerdas' instructions came, not from the Government, but from CTCR headquarters.
2. Adolfo Brana, at the head of the workshops of the Government-owned electric railway to the Pacific, is also directing PVP members in the manufacture of 80-lb. and 100-lb. bombs.
3. A column led by Enrique Tijerino, a Nicaraguan who has lived in Costa Rica for many years, and PVP deputy Carlos Luis Fallas, has reportedly captured the airport at San Isidro del General after disembarking near the Pacific port of Dominical. It is understood that this group now numbers some six hundred men.
4. The reported refusal of Mora's PVP forces to march against Figueres' forces has given rise to serious differences among FVP and Government military leaders. Mora has stated that he will use his men to defend his party. As an example of the PVP's lukewarm attitude toward combat duty and their careful guarding of arms already in their possession, the experience of Government military leader Col. Diego Lopez is cited. An order by Col. Lopez on 17 March to the PVP to supply a contingent of armed men resulted in ten militants reporting for duty without rifles or ammunition. The men were ordered to return to CTCR headquarters and to come back with arms. They left but did not bother to return.

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5. [REDACTED] Manuel Mora and the PVP Political Bureau are disturbed over the increasing number of Nicaraguans being brought into Costa Rica to support the Government. 204

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